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REVIEW OF 1948 ACRIEVEMENTS OF USER MEDICINE

In a recent report submitted to the Ministry of Public Health USER, Ye. I. Smirnov described the achievements of the medical profession for 1948 and briefly indicated worthwhile trends for 1949.

On the whole, 1948 was a satisfactory year. Of the 23.5 thousand hospital beds which were made available, some 10,000 were established in agricultural communities. A additional 10,000 were made available for tubercular patients. About 40 medico-sanitary departments were organized at various industrial enterprises, and some 3,00 medical assistant and midwife posts were organized among the rural population. The unification of hospitals and polyclinics raised the quality of medical assistance available to agricultural communities.

The ranks of professional personnel were increased by an additional 24,740 doctors, 52,320 middle medical personnel, and about 4,000 specialists. This made possible the reactivation of 150 sanitary-epidemiological stations.

The various Scientific Research Institutes contributed much to medical knowledge, particularly in the field of immunogenic substances used against infectious diseases, as well as the early diagnosis of malignant growth and various other diseases,

There were also a great wany disappointments in 1948. Plans for increasing the number of hospital beds were not carried out in the Ukrainian, Latvian, Tadzhik, Moldavian, and Estonian SSRs. The Kirgiz and Uzbek SSRs did not fulfill their hospital-bed quotas in agricultural communities as planned. Only 50 percent of the plan for organization of medical assistant and midwife posts were carried out in the Uzbek, Kazakh, Armenian, and Turkmen SERs. The Takzhik SER completed only 25 percent of its plans.

The various organizations of the Public Health Service for the USSR are resolved to eliminate in 1949 the 1948 shortcomings. Some of the more important tasks and projects are: completion of the unification of hospitals and polyclinics; increasing the facilities for dispensary services to workmen and war wounded; elimination of diseases which cause absenteeism in factories; improvement of methods for the prophylaxic, early diagnosis, and

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treatment of diseases; utilization of hospital beds; and the increasing and improvement of specialized service in medical centers of agricultural regions.

The 1949 program also includes the increasing of facilities for infant and maternity care, as well as decreasing the number of deaths among newborn babies.

In the coming year much will be done to improve the quality of sanitationantiepidefic services to the public. Parasitic typhus must be completely eliminated, malaria controlled, and such diseases as intentinal infections, diphtheria, and scarlet fever eliminated in-so-far as possible.

Health service to personnel working in important Industries must be improved. Various organizations of the Public Health Service should spend up to 70 percent of their budgets in purchasing medical apparatus, surgical instruments, and equipment. Much needs to be done to improve the education available to doctors as well as middle medical personnel.

The 1948 industrial plan for the production of medical apparatus was fulfilled by 107.5 percent, at 32.1 percent over increase over 1947. There was remarkable production of some products; for example, rivanol production increased 5.75 times over 1947. Veronal, aspirin, and powdered glucose production almost tripled that of 1947. Chloroform, caffein in ampules, calcium chloride, and other production was twice that of 1947.

In the general production picture, of 105 plants that were being maintored, only 77 were able to complete their plans. This nevertheless, was an improvement over 1947. There were several reasons for this production lag: the inability of the plants to get their quotas of raw material for the production of medical apparatus and surgical instruments and poor organization and administration of labor, which was particularly noticeable in the chemico-pharmaceutical and medical instrument factories.

Plans for 1949 call for even greater development of the medical industry.

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